

مكمل من الأصل

1991  
JORDAN  
AMMAN

## Some Yemenis protest draft constitution

SANA (AP) — Tens of thousands of Yemenis thronged the streets of this capital Sunday to protest the draft constitution because it stops short of making Islam the sole source of legislation. They came from all over the provinces, presenting what looked like the largest rally ever in this newly United country. Diplomats estimated the crowd at 100,000. It was a tangible symbol of the government's first major test in trying to allay the lingering suspicions in the year-old union between the formerly Marxist south and the more religious, conservative north. Government officials have said the fundamentalist rallies are part of a democratic process in a country which has seen 33 parties sprout since unity paved the way for the multi-party system. The constitution is expected to pass. Mainly bearded demonstrators marched through the streets chanting "an Islamic constitution," and gathered in parade square to listen to fiery speeches. No women were sighted in their midst and there were no incidents with the police, who helped clear the roads for them.

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## Iraqi airline regroups in Jordan

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq's national airline has begun regrouping its fleet of planes in Amman and is seeking United Nations approval to resume flights from the Jordanian capital, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Sunday. Iraqi Airways Director-General Nureddin Safi said two Boeing 707s arrived in Amman on Saturday from the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott. He said the airline was negotiating to bring two Boeing 747s and two Boeing 727s from Tunis and had obtained approval from the countries through whose airspace they would pass. Amman is the main air link for travellers entering and leaving Iraq, which is still under a United Nations air blockade imposed after its invasion of Kuwait last August. Some of the Iraqi planes were out of Iraq when the air embargo was imposed. A Reuter correspondent visiting Iran last weekend saw two Iraqi airliners at Ahwaz airport in the south of the country, still with their green and white Iraqi Airways livery.

## U.S. soldier, Iraqi civilian killed

ZAKHO (R) — A U.S. soldier and an Iraqi civilian were killed Sunday when their trucks collided on a main road to the northern provincial capital of Dohuk, U.S. military sources said. Two other American soldiers were injured in the crash of a U.S. army truck and an Iraqi pick-up about 50 kilometres northwest of Dohuk. Two U.S. army soldiers were seriously injured Sunday in another accident just south of the allied supply base near the Turkish border town of Silopi, a U.S. military statement said. It said the soldiers were in a fuel truck which turned over and caught fire after swerving to avoid a civilian car. The two men suffered extensive burns.

## 1 killed, 12 hurt in Kabul rocket attacks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan fired 12 rockets into the capital Kabul Sunday, killing one person and wounding 12, Kabul Radio said. The broadcast, monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, said the Western-backed rebels fired what it called cluster rockets from north-west of Kabul. Four districts were damaged by the rockets. The rebels have frequently fired rockets on Kabul during the 12-year-old civil war.

## 400 mines still in northern Gulf

BAKRAIN (R) — Western and Arab navies have cleared about 800 Iraqi mines from the northern Gulf but more than 400 are still lurking there, a British naval officer said Sunday. "We think the Iraqis laid something between 1,200 and 1,500 mines in total," Commodore Christopher Craig told a news conference. "At the latest count there are approximately 800 mines cleared and the rest are being cleared." Cmdr. Craig said the remaining mines were located nearly 30 miles off the Kuwaiti coast. "I have every confidence that mine clearance will be completed within a period of several weeks." Britain still has five mine-clearing vessels operating in the northern Gulf. The U.S., Saudi and French navies are also taking part in the operation.

## Ozal attacks Hawke on human rights

SYDNEY (R) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal, who ended a trip to Australia Saturday, has criticised Prime Minister Bob Hawke over human rights, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported Sunday. Mr. Ozal said Australia should look before its own human rights record before criticising Turkey. ABC Radio reported, quoting Turkish newspaper reports. Mr. Hawke last week made Mr. Ozal an honorary member of the Order of Australia, the nation's top honour, but also raised questions about Turkey's human rights record. Mr. Ozal's office alleged that 96 people committed suicide each year in Australian prisons due to torture and repression, the ABC quoted the newspapers as reporting. Such a country did not have the right to criticise Turkey, Mr. Ozal was reported as saying. A spokesman for Mr. Hawke could not be reached for comment on the reports. Mr. Ozal left Australia on Saturday after a visit marked by angry protests about Turkey's human rights record and its occupation of northern Cyprus.

## Group appeals for release of hostage

LONDON (AP) — A group seeking the release of British journalist John McCarthy appealed Sunday for the release of Jack Mann, a 76-year-old Briton beginning his third year in captivity in Beirut. Mr. Mann was kidnapped on May 12, 1989. His abduction was never claimed by any group, although he is believed to be among the Westerners held by pro-Iranian factions. "The friends of John McCarthy wish to ensure that Jack Mann, together with John, Terry Waite and all other hostages, is not forgotten as he enters his third year of incarceration."

# Jordan Times

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## Superpowers link up on Mideast peace effort amid signs of trouble

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers began talks in Egypt on Sunday in a joint effort to get Arab-Israeli peace talks launched amid signs that the American-led move had run into trouble.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker flew in from Damascus, where he met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh talked in one of Cairo's Nile-side luxury hotels ahead of more discussions on Monday with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

But there was no sign that Syria or Israel was prepared to make concessions to bridge the Arab-Israeli divide.

Mr. Assad's spokesman told Reuters the Syrian leader and Mr. Baker agreed after six hours of talks that Damascus and Washington would continue to exchange contacts and ideas (see story on right).

A senior official travelling with

Mr. Baker from Damascus to Cairo said Syria and Israel were as far apart as ever on two central procedural issues — whether the United Nations should attend the peace conference and whether the conference should be a one-off event or should reconvene from time to time.

"On those two issues I don't see any particular progress," the official said bluntly after Mr. Baker's latest marathon session with Mr. Assad, which lasted more than six hours.

He was equally pessimistic about Mr. Baker's prospects of finding a more receptive response from Israel's hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when the two meet next Wednesday.

"I don't expect to see any progress on those two issues when I get to (occupied) Jerusalem. We may get lucky. But at the end of this trip we will know exactly what separates the parties and then we will determine what the next steps are," the official said.

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## Shamir vows not to return land; aide dismisses GCC offer

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir never failed to surrender land for peace, and a top aide dismissed as useless the Gulf states' agreement to send an observer to proposed Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Shamir's remarks came as Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker were both in the Mideast trying to arrange negotiations.

"We will not retreat and we will mobilise every drop of desire, energy, and capability to stand up for our rights to the land of Israel," Mr. Shamir said in remarks broadcast Sunday. "There is no Israel other than the entire land of Israel, it is only this."

Mr. Shamir's ruling Likud bloc believes that the "land of Israel" should a stretch from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River and has repeatedly said it would not agree to a U.S.-supported land for peace settlement with the Arabs.

The top aide to Mr. Shamir Sunday dismissed an offer by six Gulf Arab states to send an

observer to a proposed Middle East conference, saying they were ignoring the need to make peace.

The negative reaction from Yossi Ben-Aharon contrasted to cautious praise from Foreign Minister David Levy, who has been increasingly out of step with the prime minister's tough stand.

"In a status of observers, there is no tangible contribution to the peace process because they maintain a state of war with us," said Mr. Ben-Aharon, director of Mr. Shamir's office.

"We don't need observers as far as the Arab states are concerned. We need participants," he told reporters.

The United States welcomed the offer on Saturday by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to join the talks as an observer.

"But if they are maintaining the state of war and the boycott and supporting the PLO and the Syrian arms deals and the rest, we don't see any positive contribution on their part to the peace process," Mr. Ben-Aharon said.

Mr. Levy, taking a softer line

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## Kurdish leader is confident autonomy accord achievable

BAGHDAD (R) — Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani said Sunday he was confident of reaching early agreement with the Iraqi government on autonomy for Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds.

"I am sure we will have an agreement," he told Reuters.

Asked when, he replied: "Not today. Maybe during this week."

Mr. Barzani, leader of the powerful Kurdish Democratic Party, is in Baghdad at the head of a four-member delegation of guerrilla chiefs to work out a new autonomy deal for the Kurds who make up about one fifth of Iraq's 18 million people.

He met President Saddam Hussein on Saturday for the second time since the peace talks began on Tuesday but the Kurdish leader would not say what was exactly under discussion.

"Later, later we will give you everything," Mr. Barzani said when asked for details.

Massoud Barzani inherited his father's mantle as the supreme Kurdish chieftain in Iraq when Mulla Mustapha Barzani died in 1979 after decades of leading the Kurds' on-off war with the Baghdad government.

His meetings with President Saddam have raised hopes of a breakthrough which could pave the way for the return of the latest wave of Kurdish refugees to their homes in northern Iraq.

About two million Kurds fled to Iraq and Turkey following a

rebellion ended by the army at the end of March.

But a few thousand have since trickled back to "safe havens" set up in north Iraq by a U.S.-led alliance which fought the Iraqi army in the Gulf war last February.

Baghdad has condemned the allied-protected refugee enclave as a violation of its territory.

Kurdish sources outside Iraq say Baghdad was keen to clinch an early deal with the rebels which could undermine the justification for the allied military presence in northern Iraq.

A Kurdish newspaper said at the weekend the autonomy talks were about to bear fruit.

Breaking days of official silence on the talks, the newspaper Al Iraq said on Saturday they were going ahead "in an objective spirit and the discussions were full and frank."

The result of the negotiations is expected to be announced in a couple of days in the framework of a mutual agreement on how to implement the March (1970) declaration which will strengthen national unity," it said.

A first round of talks two weeks ago led to agreement in principle to revive the 1970 accord, which recognised the Kurds as a distinct nation and gave them extensive rights to run their own local affairs. Kurdish leaders have accused Baghdad of renegeing on the 1970 deal.

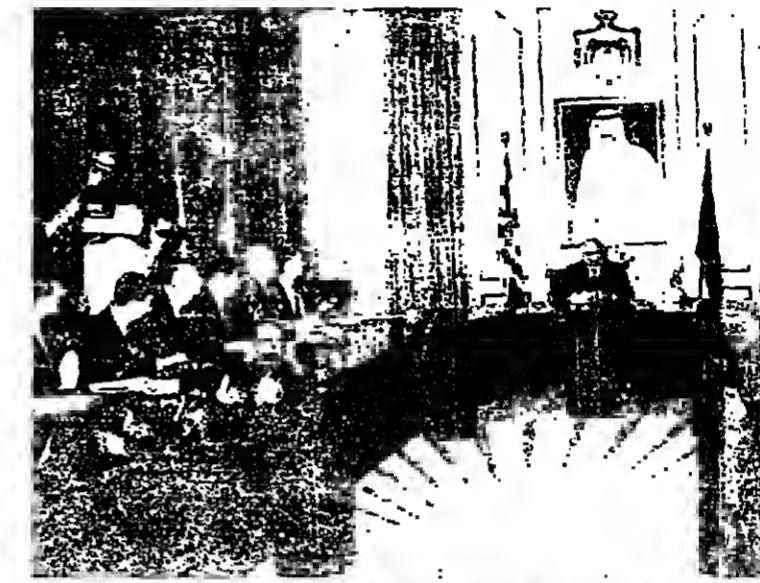
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## King meets American student delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday met with a student delegation representing the U.S. National War College led by Dr. Terry Daibel and reviewed with the guests developments in the Middle East and the impact of the Gulf war on the region.

The King also reviewed with the delegation efforts towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and stressed the need for establishing security and stability in the region through a just and comprehensive settlement.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets with an American student delegation (Petra photo)

Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and the King's military secretary as well as U.S. Ambassador

dor to Jordan Roger Harrison.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also received the U.S. delegation and re-

viewed with them the situation in the region in general, and the Arab-Israeli conflict and Jordan's stand on the issue.

## Syria firm on 242 and 338

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Damascus was ready to continue working with Washington towards Middle East peace, bis spokesman said Sunday.

Jouban Kourieh told Reuters the Syrian leader and Mr. Baker agreed after six hours of talks that Damascus and Washington would continue to exchange contacts and ideas.

Mr. Baker left for Cairo immediately after his talks with President Assad to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, who has joined U.S. efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

President Assad reiterated Syria's real desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with U.N. resolutions, especially 242 and 338," Mr. Kourieh said.

"He also reaffirmed the continuation of Syria's readiness to cooperate with current efforts to achieve the best formula that would push forward the peace process.

"The Syrian and American sides agreed to continue contacts and discussion of ideas raised," Mr. Kourieh said.

Mr. Kourieh said Mr. Baker had brought President Assad up to date with his efforts to move the peace process forward.

"Baker briefed President Assad on the contacts conducted by the United States with the parties concerned and the contacts to be conducted," he added.

The talks in Syria came after Mr. Baker announced the breaking of a "major taboo" frustrating efforts.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has agreed to deal directly with Israel for the first time on secondary regional issues such as water scarcity and to send an emissary to observe the opening of peace talks with other Arab states if they occur.

Those Arab countries had previously shied away from involvement in peace talks, although they are not yet pledged to talk peace with Israel.

Police said earlier that members of group affiliated to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah movement had been arrested in Arab Jerusalem on suspicion of planting bombs in the past year.

The incident occurred as Jews converged on occupied Jerusalem

## Jordan seeks fresh negotiations with France on Mirage deal

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has requested France for fresh negotiations on an already agreed deal to sell Mirage 2000 fighter jets to the Kingdom, French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe said Sunday.

Mr. Joxe, who arrived here Saturday, also told a press conference after talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan that France had agreed to supply spare parts for the Mirage jets the Kingdom already possesses.

"The Jordanian government has requested that discussions be resumed on this issue (sale of Mirage 2000 jets) and talks are continuing on this request," the French minister said.

Mr. Joxe, who is visiting Jordan in response to an invitation that the King extended during a visit to France in early April, said he also toured a Royal Jordanian Air Force base and met with senior officials.

The King met with the French minister on Saturday and re-

viewed with him "military cooperation and relations between the two countries," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

On Sunday, Crown Prince Hassan held talks with Mr. Joxe on "post-Gulf war cooperation" between Jordan and France, the agency said.

Mr. Joxe told reporters that his country had reached agreement with Kuwait to "assign a group of French military personnel to train Kuwaitis in clearing mines."

Spokesmen for the American-led alliance which fought Iraq in the Gulf war earlier this year have said that hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of landmines litter Kuwait and that clearing the explosive devices could take a

(Continued on page 5)

## Settlers wound 2 Arab girls; court rejects expulsion appeal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish settlers shot and wounded two Palestinian girls aged four and five near occupied Jerusalem on Sunday as Israel marked the 24th anniversary of the seizure of the half of the Holy City.

The settlers, from the Jewish community of Shiloh in the occupied West Bank, told police they opened fire when an Arab minister tried to force his bus off the road just north of occupied Jerusalem near the village of Arram.

The girls riding in the minibus were wounded in the legs. One was treated and released. The other was kept in hospital but police said she was not in danger.

Police said they detained the settlers and their bus driver for questioning.

The incident occurred as Jews converged on occupied Jerusalem

to mark the seizure of the eastern half of the Holy City in the 1967 war.

The "anniversary" was on Sunday according to the Jewish calendar but is June 7 by the Western calendar.

Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank were harassed from Jerusalem in an effort to prevent unrest.

Two pipe bombs exploded in the occupied Jerusalem neighbourhood of Ramot, one of a string of Jewish neighbourhoods built by Israel in Arab Jerusalem since 1967, but caused no injuries or damage.

Police said earlier that members of group affiliated to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah movement had been arrested in Arab Jerusalem on suspicion of planting bombs in the past year.

Spokeswoman Eti Eshed said the judges saw no reason to interfere in an army decision to expel the four Gazans for allegedly inciting violence and being senior

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## Iraq busy with reconstruction, but sanctions pose big hurdle

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The writer has just returned after a week-long visit to Iraq

**AMIDST POLITICAL** efforts to stabilize the internal situation following the Gulf war and sectarian rebellions in the north and south, the Iraqi government has also stepped up the pace of post-war reconstruction. But, every Iraqi agrees, the push to rebuild the devastated infrastructure could grind to a halt if the international sanctions imposed on the country are not eased.

Engineers and workers are busy in Baghdad and in almost every major town and city in Iraq, tearing down buildings and structures hit in the allied bombing during the war or ransacked and gutted in the Shi'ite rebellion in the south and the Kurdish riots in the north which followed the end of the war in late February.

In many cases, experts say, reconstruction costs could be double the original cost since demolition of damaged buildings without posing danger to nearby structures is a time-consuming, expensive process. And, of course, prices have gone up since Iraq's years back.

High-rise cranes and earth-moving equipment are seen in every part of Baghdad, hauling down huge chunks of concrete and masses of steel wreckage. At one site, the main post office in the heart of the Iraqi capital, it was clear that the process was going to be very delicate since three big buildings surround it, limiting equipment manoeuvrability.

But such limitations have not discouraged the Iraqis, who appear to have been encouraged by the swiftness with which the government managed to restore power and water supply and communications in many areas of Baghdad and other towns and cities.

These restorations are in no way complete. In many areas, power supply is erratic and health authorities warn against consuming pipe water without boiling it. Ministries and government departments have

communications among themselves but no external lines are available yet.

But the main boost that the Iraqi psyche received after the initial shock of the war appears to be the relatively fast return to the market of gasoline supplies. The government lifted rationing of fuel on April 28 and a few days later reduced the price to 70 fils a litre from the pre-war 90 fils a litre. This in turn has led to a small decline in prices, particularly those of produce transported to Baghdad and other cities from outlying areas.

The Iraqi army is contributing a large share of the reconstruction efforts, particularly by offering its expertise in building pontoon bridges and laying detour roads.

The army's role is clearly visible on the main Baghdad-Basra highway, where every bridge has been hit in an unmistakably systematic bombing by the allies. Some of the bridges now allow one-way traffic while army-built pontoons serve vehicles going in the opposite direction.

Several of the bridges, across the Shatt Al Arab waterway — the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers — flowing into the Gulf near Basra, have partially survived the bombing with one lane totally demolished while the other lane remains strong enough to take heavy vehicles.

In Baghdad itself, cranes are at work lifting chunks of steel and concrete from bombed buildings as well as bridges across the Tigris, but the need for makeshift bridges is not felt in the capital since six main bridges somehow escaped the bombing.

"It is not as if the Americans wanted to spare any of the bridges; it is only that they were not very accurate," said a taxi driver, pointing out to a wreckage of buildings adjacent to one of the bridges. "They came back at least two times to

destroy the bridge, but somehow they missed every time and hit the buildings instead," he said.

The massive cost of rebuilding has not been estimated accurately yet. But Iraqi ministers and government officials have estimated the total loss sustained in physical damages at between \$150 billion and \$200 billion.

Special emphasis is given to reconstruction to the 1991 national budget of 18.9 billion Iraqi dinars (\$44 billion at the official rate). The budget, which was approved by the government last week, also provides for heavy subsidies on wheat and barley and help for farmers in the fertile northern parts of the country. Funds usually allocated for new projects have been diverted to reconstruction and, as an Iraqi economist put it, "there is little chance of any new government investments for the next few years."

The co-operation of several government-owned firms, including a publishing and advertising company, to joint-stock entities, and permission for private banks to be set up are seen as the forerunner of a fundamental change in the mostly socialist economic system of Iraq to deal with the aftermath of the war.

However, as Iraqis are well aware, work on repairing and/or rebuilding key installations such as water purification plants, power generating facilities and telecommunications will come to a halt until the United Nations Sanctions Committee lifts its punitive embargo on Iraq, imposed after the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

"So far the reconstruction and rebuilding work has progressed well since the Iraqis relied upon themselves and drew from local resources for the entire process," said an Asian diplomat. "The work completed so far represents a phase where the groundwork is done, but the crunch will come when they need imported equipment to replace or repair damaged facilities," he noted.

Iraqi officials and ordinary citizens are equally bitter over the continued sanctions. "I don't know what they (the allies) want from us anymore," commented a senior ministry



Every bridge on the main Baghdad-Basra highway (below) to resume vehicle and pedestrian traffic has been hit in the allied bombing (photo above), and the Iraqi army has built pontoon bridges (Photos by P.V. Vivekanand).



(below) to resume vehicle and pedestrian traffic

and the Iraqi army has built pontoon bridges

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bush telephones thanks to King Fahd

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush called King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Saturday to thank him for the Gulf Cooperation Council's decision to participate in a regional peace conference on the Middle East. The White House press office said Mr. Bush told the Saudi king he viewed the announcement as a "positive step." The Gulf Cooperation Council, comprised of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, announced earlier on Saturday its "readiness to participate" — if invited — as an observer in a forthcoming peace conference. The GCC said participation, by its secretary-general would be to further efforts "to achieve peace, security and stability in the Middle East ... to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to reach a just solution to the Palestinian question."

### Khamenei in satisfactory condition

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was in satisfactory condition Sunday after an operation a day earlier for a longstanding gallbladder problem, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. In an interview broadcast over radio and television, Ayatollah Khamenei said doctors told him he might be hospitalized for a couple of days, according to IRNA. Ayatollah Khamenei, 51, said he was first hospitalized with the problem while imprisoned by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was overthrown by the 1979 revolution. He said the problem had recurred, causing a chronic stomach ache. "At first, doctors diagnosed my illness as a gastric ulcer and sometimes as a duodenal ulcer," he said. He said the pain was so severe on April 16 and April 17 that he was unable to lead congregational prayers to celebrate the 'Eid Al Fitr holy days marking the end of Ramadan. Doctors finally diagnosed the problem as gallstones, he said. Ayatollah Khamenei served as Iran's president from 1981 until 1989, when he succeeded his former teacher, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, as Iran's spiritual leader after Ayatollah Khomeini's death. He survived an assassination attempt in June 1981 when a bomb hidden in a tape recorder exploded during a speech. But the incident, blamed on the opposition Mujahideen-e-Khalq, damaged his right arm.

### Oman seeks regional effort against rabies

MUSCAT (AP) — The Sultanate of Oman has called for regional efforts to halt the spread of rabies across the southern Arabian Peninsula, a senior national health service spokesman said Saturday. Mohammad Al Bualy, state curative services director, said Oman had called for a meeting of top health officials from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman to discuss ways to check the passage of rabid wolves and foxes across borders. He said a boy had died of rabies earlier this year in Oman's northern Ibbi district, and some camels and goats owned by roaming tribes had died.

### King Hassan to visit Western Sahara

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco will visit the Western Sahara next Thursday, the Ministry of the Interior and Information said. The king, who left Rabat Saturday for the southern city of Marrakesh, will spend 46 hours in the disputed territory in the inland town of Smara and surrounding areas. It will be his third visit to the former Spanish colony since Spain pulled out in 1976. Morocco administers the territory, where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting for independence. The United Nations has adopted a plan for a referendum on whether the inhabitants of the region want independence or to be part of Morocco.

### Ethiopian rebels claim killing 2,000 troops

LONDON (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Saturday they killed 2,000 government troops when they repulsed two attacks near a strategic Red Sea port. Government forces attempted to retake the town of Beylul, 50 kilometres northwest of the government-held port of Assab, a broadcast by the clandestine radio of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said. There was no independent confirmation of the report. The radio said rebels wounded 1,700 government soldiers and captured 12 during fighting on May 3-4 and May 8-9.

### Kurdish girl run over by U.S. vehicle

ANKARA (R) — A 10-year-old Kurdish girl died after being run over by a water trailer towed by a U.S. marine truck in northern Iraq, a U.S. statement said Sunday. The statement, received from Incirlik base in southern Turkey, said the girl had tried to jump on the water trailer near a refugee camp on Saturday, but fell under the wheels. The girl, who was not named, died later of a cerebral haemorrhage in hospital in the Iraqi border town of Zakhro. The U.S. marines belong to a multinational force trying to coax around 400,000 Kurdish refugees to leave squalid camps on the rugged Turkish border for allied-guarded havens inside Iraq.

### Iran to start military manoeuvres

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian navy and air force will hold nine days of sea manoeuvres in the Gulf starting on Wednesday, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said Sunday. The exercises, code-named Victory-2, will be held over 47,000 square kilometres of waters stretching from Iran's Lavan Island to the Nowruz oil fields in the northern and central parts of the Gulf. Naval units will be assisted by 30 air force jet fighters and several helicopters, said the agency, monitored in Nicosia.

## ANNOUNCEMENT ABID SHIBLEY MBE

The British Embassy regrets to announce that Abid Shibley MBE died peacefully in his sleep early on 11 May. The funeral took place on 11 May. Condolences will be received at the family's house in Taha Hussein St. beside the Iraqi Embassy, between 5 and 7 o'clock p.m. on 13 May.

## Anti-war tribunal blasts Bush, U.S. military

NEW YORK (R) — The first of a series of worldwide tribunals convened by anti-war activists accused President George Bush and U.S. military leaders Saturday of war crimes against Iraqi civilians.

In a nine-hour forum, dozens of opponents to the Gulf war tested whether the U.S. government had waged an unjust war against defenceless Iraqi soldiers as well as thousands of innocent women and children.

Led by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who served under President Lyndon Johnson, the inquiry called for impeachment proceedings to begin against Mr. Bush for war crimes.

"It's never happened that a nation (that) has won a war has been held accountable. We intend to make this time different," said Mr. Clark to the 500 people who gathered in a high school auditorium for the proceedings.

The group sponsoring the inquiry, the National Coalition to Stop U.S. Military Intervention in the Middle East, is headquartered in Mr. Clark's New York law office.

Future tribunals are scheduled to be held in other U.S. cities and in Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The appearance of Mr. Clark before the crowd prompted cheers of "We want Ramsey" and a thundering standing ovation when he urged his supporters to "bring the transgressors to justice."

Charged with 19 war crimes and crimes against humanity by the group were U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, retiring Central Intelligence Agency Director William Webster and Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf.

Members of the coalition added their voices to a chorus of outrage at the destruction of Iraq at the hands of American forces. Videotapes of injured children in a Baghdad hospital and bombed neighbourhoods also were shown.

Gabrielle Gemma, who travelled to Baghdad last month on a fact-finding mission as part of the coalition, said she visited the site of a bombed air raid shelter and could "still smell death in the air."

"There are women who still went there everyday who stood at the gates mourning," she said.

The American public, Mr. Gemma, said, has been misled by the government and the press about the bombing. "It's a completely residential neighbourhood. People need to know that."

Other testimony included that of Michio Kaku, a professor of nuclear physics, who said the ecological fallout from the war contributed to Mr. Bush and others' guilt. "The victors do not write the history," he said. "The purpose of this inquiry is to make sure the truth comes out."

Mr. Kaku said the temperature and crimes against humanity by the group were U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, retiring Central Intelligence Agency Director William Webster and Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf.

Mr. Clark accused U.S. forces of using illegal weapons, which he cited as further proof of the government's culpability.

He and others at the hearing urged participants to launch a counterprotest at the June 10 homecoming parade in New York for returning troops.

The forum's organisers said findings from their own tribunal and others around the world will be sent to the World Court in the Hague.

## SLA attacks U.N.-policed village

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli-backed militiamen attacked a U.N.-policed village in South Lebanon behind a mortar barrage Sunday, wounding two villagers, police said.

They said the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia lit up the pre-dawn sky with 52 parachute flares and pounded the village of Majdal Zoun with 37 mortar rounds before the attack at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT).

The assault was mounted by 12 SLA militiamen. They fired about 4,000 machine gun rounds during their 2.5-hour search of the tiny, 12-house hamlet, according to police.

The Nepalese battalion of the U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL police Majdal Zoun.

Police said they had no word on what provoked the attack or whether the Nepalese were involved in any fighting.

The 3,000-strong SLA controls border enclave carved out by Israel in gaining buffer against cross-border guerrilla raids.

The 1,100-square-kilometre enclave overlaps with the zone policed by the 5,800 U.N. troops from Ireland, France, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Fiji, Ghana and Nepal.

A senior administration official said the rebels as long as the Soviets continued to aid the Kabul government.

But one senior administration official was quoted as saying: "The continuation of Soviet aid is a key factor, but to say our decision is contingent on a Soviet cutoff is going a little too far."

The paper said the Bush administration is increasingly unhappy with Afghan rebel leaders, some of whom supported Iraq in the Gulf war.

The paper also said aiding the rebels was falling out of favour due to an increasing perception within the administration that the Afghan conflict was a civil war rather than a superpower clash, as well as to the decline of the cold war.

Some officials tried to play down the significance of the failure to request funding for the rebels, the Times said. The officials said it was normal to defer requests that must be submitted secretly to intelligence committees and that there was still time for the administration to request funds.

A senior administration official involved in developing the policy was quoted as saying "the administration is tiring of the war," while another said "there is no request for more money."

"It's true that the voices calling for an end to the programme are getting louder and that every year it gets harder and harder to justify assistance in the absence of results," the official said.

President George Bush has repeatedly vowed to continue aid to

## U.S. may be ready to end Afghan rebel aid

NEW YORK (R) — The Bush administration has not requested renewed funding of Afghan guerrillas, a sign of recognition that an 11-year policy aimed at overthrowing Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government is outdated, The New York Times reported in its Sunday edition.

Citing senior administration officials, the newspaper said the administration reserved the right to request funds for the programme as the budget process continues over the next two months, and that Congress can still recommend a continuation of the programme on its own.

The assault was mounted by 12 SLA militiamen. They fired about 4,000 machine gun rounds during their 2.5-hour search of the tiny, 12-house hamlet, according to police.

The Nepalese battalion of the U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL police Majdal Zoun.

Police said they had no word on what provoked the attack or whether the Nepalese were involved in any fighting.

The 3,000-strong SLA controls border enclave carved out by Israel in gaining buffer against cross-border guerrilla raids.

The 1,100-square-kilometre enclave overlaps with the zone policed by the 5,800 U.N. troops from Ireland, France, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Fiji, Ghana and Nepal.

A senior administration official said the rebels as long as the Soviets continued to aid the Kabul government.

But one senior administration official was quoted as saying: "The continuation of Soviet aid is a key factor, but to say our decision is contingent on a Soviet cutoff is going a little too far."

The paper said the Bush administration is increasingly unhappy with Afghan rebel leaders, some of whom supported Iraq in the Gulf war.

Some officials tried to play down the significance of the failure to request funding for the rebels, the Times said. The officials said it was normal to defer requests that must be submitted secretly to intelligence committees and that there was still time for the administration to request funds.

Last week the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, which includes some of Congress' stanchest supporters of the rebels, decided to continue funding for fiscal 1992.

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-3, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:20 Dharan (RJ)

10:15 Jeddah, Saudi (RJ)

10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

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## Time for decisions and decisive action

THE PEACE process in the Middle East is at a crossroads, not so much because U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's fourth trip to the area is a "do or die" mission but because of what Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has in store for Baker or his Soviet counterpart Alexander Bessmertnykh. The Arab side has laid all their cards on the table and accommodated the various peace initiatives as far as any party can reasonably want them to. Shamir is a master of old tricks when it comes to pulling the rug from under any would-be peace-maker no matter what his thoughts are. He was of course his old self again when he greeted the fourth Baker tour and Bessmertnykh's first visit to the region with declarations and policy statements that are sure to abort any remaining prospects for peace. "We will not retreat and we will mobilise every drop of desire, energy, and capability to stand up for our rights to the land of Israel," Shamir was quoted as saying Sunday during a ceremony to commemorate Israel's seizure and annexation of Arab East Jerusalem. Of course the entire world knows only too well what Shamir means by the "land of Israel." The Israeli prime minister and his Likud Party have never concealed their definition of the "land of Israel" and made sure that Arabs and non-Arabs alike would be served with notice that as far as Tel Aviv is concerned the Jewish state stretches from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River. For all intents and purposes, therefore, Israel has reiterated its well entrenched position that rejects ipso facto the return of Arab territories captured in the 1967 war in return for peace. If this is no affront to Baker and President George Bush who subscribed so clearly to the formula of peace for territory and associated themselves with it so closely, one does not know what is.

This statement by Shamir, coupled with his dismissal as useless gimmick Baker's success in getting the Gulf Arab states to agree to attend the proposed peace conference, should come as no surprise to the Arab side for it has always suspected that at least as long as Shamir is at the helm of Israeli politics peace has little chance of ever being achieved. What remains to be seen is Washington's and Moscow's reaction to Israel's rejection of every peace offer and gesture. Time for friendly persuasion is obviously running out and what Baker and Bessmertnykh are called upon to do is to pool their efforts and come out with a concerted reply to Shamir's obstinacy. The least that the Arab side is entitled to under the circumstances is some affirmative action by the international community spearheaded by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev to make Israel heed the voice of reason and international legitimacy. Short of being ready and willing to put pressure on Israel, the Americans and the Soviets may be wasting valuable time to bring peace to this troubled land.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily expressed belief Sunday that the arrival of James Baker in the Middle East for yet another tour is bound to give momentum to the efforts of his Soviet counterpart Alexander Bessmertnykh. But before leaving Washington to embark on the trip, Baker has hinted that the so-called regional conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict was expected to deal with the distribution of water, among other issues demanded by the Israelis, the paper said. It is also noted that Baker did not mention the essential mission which is the implementation of the international legitimacy, but announced the Gulf countries' acceptance of the idea of participating in the conference which, he said, must also deal with the question of disarmament in the region, the paper pointed out. Despite Washington's earlier decision to remain committed to Security Council resolutions, Baker has not yet embarked on such questions as the right of the Palestinian people in determining their future; and this gives cause to some doubts about his mission, and gives rise to fears that Washington was determined to exercise pressure only on the Arabs to give concessions, said the paper. The paper said the Arabs have repeatedly expressed desire to reach a just and durable peace, but Israel continues to reject peace bids, refuses to recognise the rights of the Palestinians and is placing all obstacles in the path of a settlement.

A columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily calls on the ministries of water, industry and agriculture to admit their failure in curbing the level of pollution in the water of the King Talal Dam, and to abandon old policies which have proved futile so far. Nazzal says all the previous policies followed by these ministries to persuade the factories to halt the dumping of waste in the Zarqa River, whose water flows towards the dam, have ended in total failure and the time has come for a new policy and stricter measures to ensure that the disaster to the Jordan Valley farmlands will not be repeated. He says that while the factory owners amassed fortunes from their industries, they were creating misery to the farmers of the Jordan Valley, and causing a real disaster to the Jordanian agricultural sector, forcing farmers and fruit growers to go bankrupt. It is time for the concerned authorities to admit that it is the polluted water in the King Talal Dam that destroyed the crops of the Jordan Valley, says the writer. One they admit the failure of the previous policies, he adds, these concerned authorities can embark on stricter measures that can stop the flow of poison down the river and to the crops which Jordanian consume.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Jordan's press during the Gulf crisis: A faithful mirror of people's sentiments

By Waleed Saad

ONE of the most serious charges levelled against the Jordanian press during the Gulf crisis was that it lacked pluralism in thought, reflection and analysis commensurate with the existing formal democratic institutions in the country. It is often asserted by critics that one could not find during those trying times any opposing view to the stampede in favour of Iraq throughout the Gulf ordeal. Some observers have interpreted this absence of variations in perspective on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait as evidence that the Jordanian press was anything but pluralistic and democratic! This is clearly a serious complaint that needs to be addressed and investigated especially now with the benefit of hindsight.

Some facts may shed light on this phenomenon that perplexed some native and foreign observers.

To begin with, there was a near unanimity of views among Jordanians on the Gulf crisis from A to Z. Why this was so is another matter. Yet the issue remains the same in the sense that Jordanians have sympathised with Iraq throughout the Gulf conflict and saw in the U.S.-led coalition campaign against Iraq not just the ending of Iraq's occupation and, the annexation of Kuwait but also a deliberate attempt to decapitate a powerful Arab country that promises to realise a strategic balance between Israel and the Arab Nation. In this vein, one can say the same thing about Western media in the sense that they too were devoid of pluralistic analysis on the Gulf conflict.

Secondly, there were some faint voices within Jordan which whispered opposing views to the pro-Iraq side. But such voices were kept muted by choice of those who held them. I doubt that the Jordanian press would have refused to print an opposing view had the people who expressed them in private chose to do so in

public. As the current of support for Iraq was so overwhelming, it was unthinkable for the silent opposer to swim against the current and say loudly what they were thinking and saying quietly.

Thirdly, the method by which the U.S.-led forces had dealt with Iraq made Iraq look more like a victim than an aggressor. In this context there was a general conviction by Jordanians that Iraq was set up — a view buttressed by recent revelations — and that His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to defuse the situation and bring it to a peaceful resolution were deliberately aborted in order to execute some kind of a master plan. Whether in fact there was a well orchestrated conspiracy against Iraq is besides the point. The main point is that people believed it and it enjoyed wide currency among the people of all classes and backgrounds.

Fourth, the signal from the government was loud and clear in support of Iraq. If there were any hesitation on the part of the people and the mass media, it was resolved firmly in the direction of the signals that emanated from the government. The people may have been carried away with emotions but once these sympathetic emotions in support of Iraq were beefed up by government policy pronouncements, the people's convictions became much more firmly rooted. Little did the public know of Jordan's continuous counsel to Iraqi leadership to get out of the trap that was set up for their country. It is common knowledge now that after King Hussein's efforts to realise a negotiated settlement of the crisis was frustrated, he concluded that the only way left for Iraq to do is to withdraw from Kuwait and frustrate the plans to engage it in a catastrophic and devastating war.

In conclusion, the lack of pluralism in the Jordanian press during the Gulf conflict was a natural phenomenon that logically

ensued from a genuine feeling by the greater majority of the people of Jordan that Iraq was unduly victimised by foreign and some Arab governments and that the only honourable thing left for the people to do is to side with Iraq. This across the broad perspective was shared also by Jordanians who vehemently opposed the occupation of Kuwait and saw in it every element of a disaster for the Arab Nation. No wonder then that the Jordanian press faithfully reflected these commonly shared attitudes.

Still, there was some room for presenting a counter view on the crisis, notwithstanding that such a view would not have been the most popular thing to express. This opportunity was not seized and some Jordanians now regret having missed their chance to advocate an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait before the noose got tighter around Iraq's neck. In retrospect, Iraq's better interests would have been better served if they were stronger and louder calls for withdrawal from Kuwait than the case had been. Such clear signals from the friends and allies of Iraq would have carried much weight simply because they would have come from the genuine supporters of Iraq.

However, the saddest moment in the Jordanian press history would be to make a complete turn about now after the defeat of Iraq. This is especially difficult after it abstained from carrying out its full duty to call a spade a spade when the going was tough. Most of all, the silent critics of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait have in effect forfeited their right to speak out against Iraq after having failed to do so at a time when it could have made some difference. And wherever the Jordanian press may have gone wrong on the handling of the Gulf conflict, it is no fault of it, because it remained throughout a faithful mirror of the people's sentiments.

## Mideast bank won't solve economic woes, say U.S. experts

By Rosalind Mandine

WASHINGTON — A proposed regional development bank in the Middle East will not solve the area's economic disparity and growth problems, experts told a congressional committee May 9.

Questions on which countries will participate, how much they will contribute and who will ultimately benefit from a Middle East regional bank were addressed by a round-table panel discussion organised by the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Near East and South Asia.

The panelists included Alfred Leroy Atherton, former ambassador to Egypt and former assistant secretary of state for the Near East and South Asia; James Placke, director of the Cambridge Energy Research Associates; Patric Clawson, editor of *Orbis*, a foreign policy magazine; Melinda Kimball, director of Egyptian Affairs at the State Department; and Theodore Kettou, director of Syrian Affairs at the State Department. The discussion was chaired by Senator Terry Sanford, a Democrat from North Carolina.

Several panelists voiced doubts about the ultimate utility of a regional development bank in the Middle East in the context of solving problems of economic growth. The panelists agreed that aid alone is not the solution to the Middle East's economic problems and stressed that economic reform and attracting investment should be priority goals.

(Secretary of State James Baker earlier this year outlined a reconstruction plan for the Middle East that included a regional development bank).

It is questionable that the oil-rich states, like Saudi Arabia, will be able to contribute the funds needed to make a regional bank in the Middle East viable, several panelists said.

The "impression that the Saudis would be a paymaster to the region's problems" stands on shaky ground, given the financial constraints Saudi Arabia now faces, Clawson said.

The Saudis "have run out of available foreign exchange reserves," he noted, adding that Saudi Arabia has become one of the "largest borrowers on the international market in the 1990s."

Placke echoed these points, saying "Saudi Arabia does not have the financial resources it once had... There are less funds to finance undertakings, including regional development effort."

Kuwait and Iraq are also in no position to contribute to such a fund at present, Placke noted.

"Iraq's development has been set back by a decade," he said, adding that an estimated \$20,000 million will be needed in investment to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure. The costs of Kuwait's rebuilding efforts are estimated at \$500,000 million, he said.

While Saudi Arabia and Kuwait "will not have a great deal of resources to contribute to this effort," the Gulf Cooperation Council has committed itself to providing \$10,000 million for a development fund, Melinda Kimball noted.

On a recent trip to the region, U.S. Secretary of Treasury Nicholas Brady discussed possible uses of the GCC fund, including "using resources in conjunction with U.S. aid and World Bank resources that would lead to economic reform and restructuring," Kimball said.

The arms race in the Middle East is another political and security issue tied to the development bank, the panelists stated.

Senator Orrin Hatch (Republican from Utah) asked whether U.S. participation in the development bank should be tied to arms expenditures in the region by countries like Syria.

Kettou had noted earlier that Syria is buying new arms from the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia with the cash grants it has received from the Gulf states. While Kettou declined to answer Hatch's question directly, he stressed that the United States wants "to see a general reduction in the overall arms configuration in the area."

Clawson suggested that arms transfers in the region should be conducted on a cash-basis only, thereby reducing the ability of countries in the Middle East to purchase high-tech arms and weapons of mass destruction.

Ultimately the question of who will actually benefit from a regional bank must be addressed, Clawson said. He speculated that those who will benefit from the bank will be the "most attractive borrowers," and the least in need of economic aid — such countries as Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey and Algeria. "These are not countries you have in mind when talking about the have-nots of the region," he said.

The utility of a regional development bank must be discussed in the context of "ameliorating poverty in the Middle East," Clawson stressed. "Aid will not help without competent economic policies," he said, adding that attracting investment should be a priority in the region.

Kimball also stressed this point, saying economic growth in the region requires "a lot more than just redistributing the wealth. Development is — first and foremost — a self-directed, self-initiated process. Aid can only be a catalyst," she said.

"An environment that leads to sustained economic growth" must be created in the Middle East, she said. This would require policies aimed at attracting investment and instituting economic reform and restructuring, she added.

Kimball noted that Egypt's recent accord with the International Monetary Fund on economic restructuring and the presence of an IMF team in Jordan for discussions on reforms were two hopeful signs for the region.

Kimball conceded that economic reforms in the Middle East must be balanced with the political expectations of the people. A "massive undertaking in overhauling economic policies" in the Middle East — much like on the scale of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union — is needed, Kimball said. However, the ability of regimes in the region to survive the political shocks caused by such massive reforms must be taken into account, she noted.

Kimball underscored that the idea of a regional development bank in the Middle East is still under discussion and that, in the meantime, the region should address immediate needs and utilise existing institutions.

"We have institutions, like the IMF and the World Bank, that can help catalyse economic development," she said.

"First we have to address immediate needs and use the institutions that are available. Let's get things moving on the right track as we think about the issue of a regional bank and whether it makes sense," Kimball said. U.S. Information Agency.

## LETTERS

### Absurd logic

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to comment on Ramez Mahfuz's very interesting article on Israel as a theocracy (Jordan Times, May 8, 1991).

Article I of the Bill of Rights of the constitution of the United States of America stipulates the following:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

This article constitutes a general prohibition on supporting the establishment of official religion, by the U.S. Congress, inside the U.S. or overseas. Thus any official involvement by the U.S. Congress in facilitating such activity, whether through economic, military, political, diplomatic, informational or other means, constitute a flagrant violation of the U.S. constitution. And since the president is answerable to Congress, the source of all legislation, the same restrictions apply to the executive branch. By the same token, the judicial branch of the U.S. government shall not be exempt from this prohibition.

We are dismayed to report, however, that the three branches of the U.S. government have consciously ignored these restrictions on their activities.

U.S. presidents, since Harry Truman, have gone out of their way in their fervent attempts to please the Jewish state of Israel, a theocracy whose support is clearly included in Article I above. Candidates for Congress and the presidency have outbid each other's commitments to support the Jewish state of Israel, sometimes to a point of reduced ad absurdum!

The U.S. Congress, for the past 40 years, has consistently provided Israel with untold amounts of dollars, and some of its members have extended unlimited support for the "well-being" and "security" of the Jewish state of Israel.

The U.S. judicial authorities have prosecuted Palestinians upon the request of the Jewish state of Israel, and charged them with terrorist activities against a state whose support is, strictly speaking, illegal by the U.S. constitution.

To show how serious the American people are about the restriction on congressional activities cited in Article I, we remind the good readers of the response Ronald Reagan received when he proposed to ask Congress to approve allowing school children to have a ten minute break for private meditation if the children wished to. Reagan's proposal was met with almost unanimous rejection by the American people, and he had to forego requesting Congress to approve it.

It seems that the behaviour of the U.S. Congress, the presidents and the judicial branch violates Article I of the Bill of Rights of the constitution of those otherwise beautiful United States, where my family and I have had the greatest of times. Pity, isn't it?

Mohamed Zakaria, Amman.

## Israel wants the water that lies beneath the occupied lands

By Jack Redden

Reuter

MEVO HORON, West Bank — The lush fields and concealed ruins around this Jewish settlement tell of a struggle over water that goes to the heart of the relentless competition between Israelis and Palestinians.

Water pipes emerge from the ground beside Mevo Horon to feed the fertile soil just inside the occupied West Bank. A large pool fed by an underground spring sparkles in the sun.

But obscured by a neighbouring grove of trees lie twisted metal rods and concrete from a Palestinian village that once used the water. It was bulldozed out of existence when Israel occupied the area in the 1967 Middle East war.

The nearest Palestinian community, Beit Laya, has no wells and when the winter rains collect water, it is collected by villagers and runs out they now send tank trucks to buy water from the Jewish settlement.

Without Israeli approval no new Palestinian wells can be dug, dry ones cannot be replaced and existing ones cannot be repaired. Arab consumption is carefully monitored and limited, at prices more than four-times charged to Israelis.

Meanwhile, water development solely on Arab-Israeli politics — the hydrology group began the first Palestinian studies of water two decades after the occupation began — Jewish dependence on water originating in the West Bank grew

water as a million Palestinian residents.

"You can't find any Israeli settlement without water," Tamimi said. "But you can find hundreds of Arab villages without water."

The aquifer beneath the West Bank is now being used almost to capacity, with 88 per cent of the water going to Israelis in the occupied territories or the pre-1967 Jewish state.

Israeli wells, up to six times deeper than Palestinian ones which never exceed 100 metres, are causing wells and springs that have fed Arab villages for centuries to dry up during the long hot summers.

The Palestinian Hydrology group, formed by Arab engineers and geologists alarmed at the increasingly serious water problem, says the portion of farm land irrigated by West Bank Arabs has dropped from 27 per cent to only four per cent under the occupation.

Not a single new Palestinian well for irrigation has been allowed since 1967. In contrast, Israeli settlers in the area are irrigating 70 per cent of their farmland.

The message dismissed historic or religious reasons for keeping the land, bluntly saying Israel would stay because it wants the water.

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## Superpowers link up on effort

(Continued from page 1)

flexibility from Syria and Israel. This is Mr. Baker's fourth Middle East peace mission since the end of the Gulf war and officials in Washington suggested it would be his last unless he achieved a breakthrough.

In Cairo, Mr. Baker went straight into his meeting with Mr. Bessmertnykh whom he hoped could also help moderate the positions of some of the parties.

Syria insists on the U.N. having an important role in the peace conference. But Israel regards the U.N. as irretrievably hostile and is determined to keep it out.

The other major issue is whether the conference should be able to call itself back into session periodically to review progress. The Arabs say it should. Israel says no.

Despite the downbeat mood, the official indicated that some earlier disputes had been virtually settled, particularly the question of who should represent the Palestinians. But he gave no details of what had been agreed.

He said the sides also agreed that the conference's terms of reference should be U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

Diplomats believe the identity of Palestinian participants would pose the toughest test for Mr. Baker and Mr. Bessmertnykh.

The controversy over the occupied territories and their Palestinian population was underlined

on Sunday when Israel's supreme court approved the expelling of four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.

Earlier on Sunday, a senior Soviet diplomat in Cairo took a cautious stance on peace prospects, saying Mr. Bessmertnykh was carrying no special plan on the Middle East.

"There are no special ideas. We will try to find out what is the situation and listen to the ideas of the other sides. We will try to find understanding," he said.

Mr. Bessmertnykh earlier told the Soviet news agency Novosti that he and Mr. Baker had agreed to take turns in chairing a Middle East peace conference.

He said current peace efforts were the first "real chance" to reach a settlement in many years and urged that a framework acceptable to all parties be found.

Mr. Bessmertnykh was expected to visit Saudi Arabia on Monday in the first such trip since the two countries resumed ties last fall after a half-century rupture.

Saudi and Soviet officials in Riyadh on Sunday confirmed that Mr. Bessmertnykh was due in the kingdom's capital on Monday evening.

He was to meet with Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal, a Saudi official said.

Earlier Sunday Mr. Bessmertnykh took time off from politics to play tourist, visiting the Giza Pyramids, the Sphinx and the Egyptian museum.

## Bush praises GCC position

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Gorbachev was "good," adding: "We ironed out a few difficulties." Bush did not elaborate.

The Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) announced on Saturday that it would send an observer to the proposed peace conference. The announcement by Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal was made in Luxembourg after talks with European Community (EC) foreign ministers.

The Gulf states' offer to send an observer in a proposed Middle East conference earlier drew cautious praise from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

But the top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir later dismissed the offer. "We don't need observers as far as the Arab states are concerned. We need participants," Yossi Ben-Aharon told reporters.

In Riyadh, diplomatic sources said Gulf Arab states had fallen in behind U.S. plans for Middle East peace talks, sitting back from the main conference table but ready to wield their economic power to smooth any peace agreement.

The United States and the European Community had been pressing Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman to back the plan for a regional peace conference.

On another topic, Mr. Bush said the United States was "still doing what we're doing" in the 11-year effort to oust the Soviet-installed government in Afghanistan "but I'd like to see that situation evolve so we wouldn't have to do that."

The New York Times reported on Sunday that the White House had not requested funds for the Afghan rebels in its proposed 1992 budget. The Times, citing senior administration officials, said the failure to include a request for aid for the rebels indicated a growing sense that U.S. policy in Afghanistan was outmoded.

First there was the threat of conflict among the mosque's immediate and variegated Arab constituency: some British, some students attending the local Marine Technology College; some Iraqi, some Saudi, some Kuwaiti. The mosque, Yehia

## Muslims in Britain: Pressured to define loyalties

By Vivek Chaudhury and Dave Hill

THE UNLIKELY home of Britain's longest-established Muslim community is North Shields, Tyne and Wear. There, sailors from Yemen put down roots more than a century ago, a reminder that, while a certain type of True Brit chooses to see Islam as an alien force of fanatics from the Indian sub-continent and petro-dollar upstarts from the Gulf, some of Britain's Muslims are long practised at accommodating themselves with the ways of the island people.

The Gulf states' offer to send an observer in a proposed Middle East conference earlier drew cautious praise from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

But the last three years have seen Britain's Muslim communities embroiled in major convulsions of identity, going right to the heart of their role in British life and in the wider world. The Rushdie affair, arguments about Islamic schools and political parties and, most recently, the Gulf war, have dragged abstract issues of social and spiritual identity down from the stratosphere and set them firmly in the discourse of everyday life. The full implications are, as yet, uncertain. But the debate has been loud; and with it have come shifting sensibilities for uncomfortable times.

Take Moshin Fadi Yehia, trustee and caretaker of the Al Azhar mosque at the bottom of South Shields' Laygate Lane. An ex-merchant seaman in his late fifties, Yehia first came to England to help with the second world war effort, responding to a call to the imperial outposts from a mother country in ruins, and bringing the word of Allah with him. Islam is still important to Yehia, perhaps more now than ever. But so, too, is survival. And the moment the Iraqi army set out savaging Kuwait he took steps to bridge troubled waters already lapping at his own doorstep.

He and his six children have all been raised as Muslims, but his wife is a British-born Yemeni Roman Catholic and took her faith from her Irish mother, who had married one of the very first Yemeni immigrants. "Oh, Iris," said Yehia, shaking his head, "she is a very bad Catholic. I try hard to make her become Muslim but unfortunately I do not succeed." The very word "Muslim," so routinely and so emotively deployed, obscures more than it describes in Britain, as anywhere else. Few catchalls conceal a wider range of people, families of many national diasporas living different lives in cities from Glasgow to Gravesend. A shared reverence for the Koran and a sense, common to many, that they are outsiders in the land where they live do not amount to a universal social solvent for such workaday differences.

In Bradford, where the Council of Mosques has made some of the most contentious fundamentalist pronouncements of the Rushdie-Saddam period, at least one young Muslim wrestles with gut feelings which are uncomfortably mixed. Quaiser Khan is 21, Bradford-born, Muslim-raised of Pakistani immigrant parents, grammar school-educated, Yorkshire-accented and the proprietor of a small, independent panel consider the expulsions.

The expulsions would raise to 67 the number of Palestinians expelled by Israel during the uprising against Israeli occupation that began in December 1987. Almost all the Palestinians have been expelled to Lebanon.

The U.S. and other Western governments have long criticised Israel's policy of expelling Palestinians, complaining it violates the Geneva conventions on treatment of civilians in occupied lands.

In March, when the four expulsion orders were issued, the U.N. Security Council adopted a statement deplored the expulsions of Palestinians involved in the uprising.

The four men — Jamal Abu Habel, 48, Muein Msalam, 31, Hashem Ali Dahlan, 31, and Jamal Abu Jaydah, 33 — were ordered expelled after a wave of revenge stabbings of Israelis.

"This speaks stronger than any thesis, any political discussion," he said.

assured everyone, was not taking sides over Saddam Hussein. Rather it was a place where all might pray, in unity, for peace. Then there was the local white majority to consider. The Al Azhar ("The Light"), named after a famous mosque in Cairo, has been there for nearly 20 years and community relations have been good. But what might the effect have been on the True Brit if large numbers of "our boys" had come home in body bags?

Here, Yehia's influence could not be so direct. He knew he could depend on the local police, whose sensitivity Yehia cannot praise too highly. Yet what price the fair rule of law in a land where the very word "Muslim" has been put into the mouths of the majority as a pejorative, intricately bound up with images of Iranian hostage-takers and bearded mullahs burning books on the streets of Bradford? In such a climate of suspicion, the rapid and murderous conclusion of the Gulf land war was not without its blessings.

Yehia, then, can breathe easily again. But while the seeming tranquility of Muslim life in South Shields might be hailed as a triumph of multiculturalism — a satisfying snub to those who seek to equate Islam with subversive — it would be glib to regard it as typical. Indeed, Yehia himself is no model of Islamic conviction in one, engrossing respect.

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The U.S. and other Western governments have long criticised Israel's policy of expelling Palestinians, complaining it violates the Geneva conventions on treatment of civilians in occupied lands.

In March, when the four expulsion orders were issued, the U.N. Security Council adopted a statement deplored the expulsions of Palestinians involved in the uprising.

The four men — Jamal Abu Habel, 48, Muein Msalam, 31, Hashem Ali Dahlan, 31, and Jamal Abu Jaydah, 33 — were ordered expelled after a wave of revenge stabbings of Israelis.

"This speaks stronger than any thesis, any political discussion," he said.

travel agency in the heart of the Malmesbury district where many Muslims reside.

He has disquieting stories to tell of getting it in the neck after complaining to a mechanic that his car wasn't properly fixed ("the trouble with you people is ..."); of the Pakistani driver who stepped out of his cab outside the office and punched the window of a white driver alongside. What words or gestures had passed between them back down the road?

Quaiser can hardly help but fear the worst. "You feel you just don't know what's going to happen. The more I think about it, the more I think things are not going to be good for Muslim people here."

QUAISER finds himself caught in a quagmire of conflicting loyalties over religion, race and nation. Married in a fellow Muslim from Newcastle and blessed with a baby, five months old, he doesn't want to live anywhere else. Though he's never been in a pub (except once to get his cousin out) and cannot kick the habit of having white-skinned people in mind when he speaks of "the English," Quaiser still wants to belong among them. "I think the English system is very fair and the people are very fair, generally. In many of the Muslim countries, the governments are so corrupt. In Pakistan you can't even get a phone installed without bribing somebody. If I want to live there it'd do my head in."

But he still finds himself impaled on a contradiction between the democratic virtues of his homeland and those of his spiritual elders whose hearts, it seems to Quaiser, still pine for the rural Pakistan from where many of them came. Quaiser would like to be a good Muslim and admire his devotions fall short of the Koran's requirements as practised by the Bradford elders: "I believe in God and I believe in the Koran, and I believe everything that is written in the Koran," he says, but though he keeps fasts and attends the mosque every Friday, he does not pray the required five times a day and concedes: "My faith is not as strong as, say, people who came here from Pakistan."

But those whose religious observation he admires have also, at times, been the same people whose public utterances have caused him most discomfort. Quaiser admits to "feeling a lot of hate" for Salman Rushdie. But he has found the conduct over the Satanic Verses and the Gulf war by some of the more devout difficult to accept.

He would have liked Rushdie's opus to be banned on the basis that the blasphemy law should be applied equally to every faith, but has always felt, even at the height

of the row, that Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa was wrong. He is impatient with the administration, not all of it sneaking, afforded Saddam Hussein by some: "Saddam has caused a lot of suffering and if he was a proper Muslim he wouldn't do those things. But a lot of the older people, because they've been brought up in a Muslim country, they tend to ignore a lot of the bad things."

"Some of the things the leaders say, I think well, what are they doing here? They're not helping us. The way they talk is as if we're all going back. But we're not."

Quaiser believes that as he gets older, he may embrace the Koran's strictures more closely. This, he regards primarily as the likely effect of age. But he acknowledges, too, that it may bear some relationship to alienation from Britain at large: "When you think that people want you out, it does make you more devoted to your faith because it's the only shelter you've got."

QUAISER finds himself caught in a quagmire of conflicting loyalties over religion, race and nation. Married in a fellow Muslim from Newcastle and blessed with a baby, five months old, he doesn't want to live anywhere else. Though he's never been in a pub (except once to get his cousin out) and cannot kick the habit of having white-skinned people in mind when he speaks of "the English," Quaiser still wants to belong among them. "I think the English system is very fair and the people are very fair, generally. In many of the Muslim countries, the governments are so corrupt. In Pakistan you can't even get a phone installed without bribing somebody. If I want to live there it'd do my head in."

ISLAM'S importance as a source of strength of solidarity is nowhere better illustrated than in the borough of Tower Hamlets, east London, home to large numbers of poor Bangladeshis. A community organiser called Faizel (he declined to reveal the rest of his name) who runs a scheme to help people set up small businesses, senses stirrings of renewed pride and confidence in the wake of Saddam's adventure.

FAIZEL: "There has been a change in how Muslims see themselves. We have been bombarded with Islam, TV programmes and so-called experts on Middle Eastern history. Each time Saddam Hussein is referred to, they say he's a Muslim. You must understand that many Muslims in the East End are working class and not very educated. For them, Islam is the central force in their lives. They now feel stronger about their religion than ever before. There's been a tremendous amount of support for Saddam around here and people can't stop talking about it."

BEAMED through the western media as a caricature of evil, Saddam, in this context has become a metaphor: the one leader of the Muslim world willing to make a stand. It is this that has given him a totemic appeal to some of Britain's most underprivileged people: "Personally," says Faizel, "I don't like Saddam Hussein and what he stands for. But I think the debate is very healthy: it helps people to formulate

late ideas, learn about politics, international relations and the Muslim world. I am quite optimistic that out of the ashes of the war will rise something positive. The greater awareness of being a Muslim will spur the community to think for itself."

The articulation of Islamic conviction in Britain in the post-Gulf war period may or may not be clear and unified, may be militant or mild. But the one, clear legacy of the Gulf war for all Britain's Muslims has been the need to take care of stock of their different situations: and to respond defensively. Glasgow is not a city widely noted for its Asian population, of whatever faith. Yet it, and other Scottish cities, have attracted internal migration from England by many Muslims over the last 20 years.

FOR those of means, connections and enterprise, the quality of life can be good. Relaxing in a pleasant waterfront flat overlooking the River Clyde Hassan Shahid (fancy goods wholesaler), Shaukat Bur (grocery shop proprietor), Ghulam Rabani (bus conductor turned furniture trader) and Bashir Maan (semi-retired clothing wholesaler, now chair of the Strathclyde Racial Equality Council) reflect equally on the rewards of British, or rather — to give credit where it's due — Scottish citizenship.

From his top pocket Bntt, whose shop serves a crumbing council estate, produces £140 in crisp Scottish notes. A white customer has asked him to keep it for him and save a trip to the bank. Such trust is rare indeed.

But there are unhappy stories too: a small town Muslim shopkeeper was boycotted to bankruptcy after his banner about being the best friend Saddam had taken the wrong way by his clientele; one of their son was intercepted cutting Saddam's picture from a magazine, intending to wear it as a lapel filer the next day at school ("for God's sake you're asking for trouble, please leave it here.") All four denounce the aggression of Iraq as outrageous and anti-Muslim.

And yet, as many non-Muslims also found, this is not a position that sits well with the descendants of John Bull. Nor is it the best advertisement for democracy that all four men have thought it best to keep such opinions among themselves — The Guardian.

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\* No literature or software.

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## Glasgow Rangers wins 3rd successive Scottish title

LONDON (R) — Glasgow Rangers brought a nightmare two months to a joyful conclusion when they beat Aberdeen to the runners-up spot for the third year in succession.

Rangers looked certain for their third successive championship when they travelled to Aberdeen in early March with a commanding eight-point lead.

But a late Hans Gillehus goal sent them away empty-handed and revived Aberdeen's hopes.

While Aberdeen surged, Rangers slumped.

Injuries deprived them of a host of key players while the departure of manager Graeme Souness to Liverpool last month was a body blow.

Rangers reached their nadir in the penultimate game of the season when a 3-0 defeat at Motherwell allowed Aberdeen to move ahead of them on goals scored — the two having identical points and goal difference totals.

But former England striker

Mark Hateley rescued Rangers with the two goals which condemned Aberdeen to the runners-up spot for the third year in succession.

Hateley, once of AC Milan and Monaco, scored in each half, a typically powerful header followed by a tap-in after young goalkeeper Michael Watt funnelled a shot.

New Rangers' manager Walter Smith paid tribute to his side's resilience.

"Over the season we have had a succession of blows by losing key players through suspension and injury," he said.

"Against Aberdeen they showed their determination and character. It was not the best of football, but they knuckled down and fought superbly well."

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, who guided Aberdeen to the championship in 1985, will doubtless spare a thought for his old club. But he has some pressing worries of his own.

United may be without England central defender Gary Pallister when they play Barcelona in the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam Wednesday.

Pallister limped out of Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Crystal Palace with a thigh injury.

United, their attention clearly focused on the Rotterdam game, left out six first team regulars.

Newly-crowned champions Arsenal confirmed their pedigree with a 6-1 drubbing of Coventry, Swedish winger Anders Limpar scoring a hat-trick.

The victory ensured they became the first team this century to complete a league season with only one defeat.

"It was a wonderful performance with lots of goals in a carnival atmosphere. It was a lovely way to finish and I would have liked to play the whole 38 games like that," Arsenal manager George Graham said.

Perennial escapologists Luton did it again.

Their 2-0 win over already doomed Derby County kept them in the first division at the expense of Sunderland.

Luton bad some help from an old friend — ex-Luton striker Mick Harford scoring an own goal to put them 1-0 ahead.

Sunderland, in their first season back in the first division, battled bravely at Manchester City but eventually lost 3-2.

Oldham took the second division championship thanks to a last minute Neil Redfearn penalty in a 3-2 win over Sheffield Wednesday.

However, the tailend of the English season was marred by crowd trouble.

Oldham's game was held up for four minutes by fighting fans and rival supporters fought on the pitch before the second division game between Bristol Rovers and West Bromwich.

## Seles, Sabatini reach dream Rome final

ROME (AP) — Top-seeded Monica Seles beat back a tough challenge from Mary Joe Fernandez and will defend her Italian Open title against second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini, who cruised through her semifinal.

The second-seeded Sabatini breezed into Sunday's final with a quick and easy 6-1, 6-0 victory over fifth-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain. Seles, however, needed two hours and 13 minutes to overcome Fernandez, the fourth seed, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4.

Fernandez also had taken Seles to three sets in their dramatic semifinal at the Australian Open, which the Yugoslav won earlier in the year.

The Rome semifinal was equally hard fought and dramatic.

"It was a tough match," said Seles.

"We were both running all the halfs down, because we didn't want to give the other the slightest advantage. For me, it wasn't a day when all my shots going in. And you can't have that kind of day against a great player like Mary Joe."

Seles, the world's no. 1 player, had breezed into the semifinals, barely breaking a sweat while not dropping a set in her first



Monica Seles

set on trying to win each point, and on making my shots."

Fernandez, 19, who had won just once in six previous outings against the 17-year-old Seles, showed right from the start that she had come to play. She battled back from a 5-2 deficit in a 1-hour, four-minute first set and had a chance to force a tiebreak before losing her serve and the set.

Despite the energy spent in her first set rally, Fernandez stayed even with Seles in the second set, and took a 3-2 lead with a break in game five with a backhand passing shot down the line. She then went on to win the set.

But Fernandez matched the blonde Yugoslav blow for blow from the baseline, and kept Seles off the baseline to prevent her from setting up for her sharply angled putaways.

While Fernandez had a slight advantage in play, Seles played better when it mattered, particularly in the first set when the American squandered four of five break points.

"It was a very close match," said Seles. "I couldn't think too far ahead. I just had to concentrate."

The two players exchanged service breaks for six consecutive games. Serving at 4-3, Fernandez

hit two easy balls out, and saw Seles turn her backhand volley into a winner down the line to fall to 0-40. She bravely fought off Seles' first two match points, and then narrowly missed a forehand crossing shot to give the match to Seles.

"All in all, I was happy with the match," said Fernandez. "I played very well, and I was trying to hit winners on the important shots. It was a great match."

Sabatini had a much easier time in her semifinal match. Martinez, who had played brilliantly in eliminating no. 3 seed Martina Navratilova Friday night, was helpless against the powerful 20-year-old Argentine.

"The balls don't go as fast on clay," said Sabatini, who also has not lost a set this year in Rome.

"This might be good for me, if I play well. But it won't be easy, even on this surface."

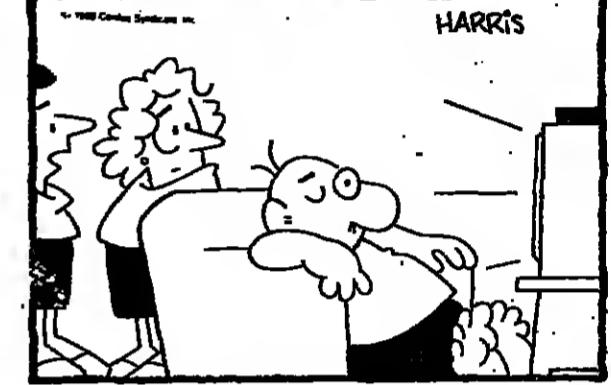
"Monica is playing very well, and she has produced some excellent results. I know that to win I'm going to have to vary my shots, and to play her deep."

"Tomorrow is going to be a very tough match. And I'm looking to it."

## HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Stanley comes home exhausted, but hates to miss his TV shows. So one eye watches TV while the other eye sleeps!"

### JUMBLE

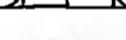
THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

And, if elected, I'll...



WHAT A POLITICIAN HAS TO BE IN ORDER TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

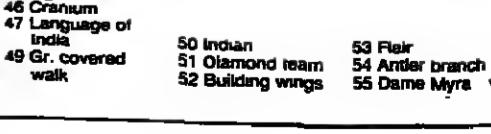
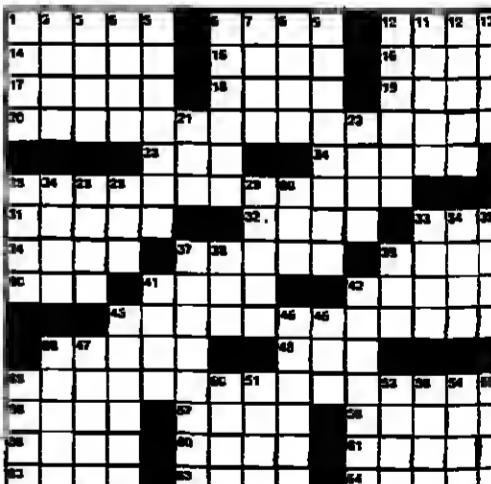
Answer here: 

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SIXTY WHOSE ISLAND MUSKET Answer: On a date it's seldom amiss -- TO KISS A MISS

## THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth Witte



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH INC

A LESSON IN LIAISON

Both vulnerable, South deals.

**NORTH**

♦ A 7 5 3 2

8 7 5 4

4 J 9 8

♦ Void

**SOUTH**

♦ Void

A K Q J 6 3

7 6 4 3

♦ A 9

The bidding:

South West North East

1 : Pass 1 : Pass

2 : Pass 4 : Pass

3 : Pass 5 : Pass

4 : Pass 6 : Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

Entries are precious assets. Don't squander them uselessly. Such waste could cost you heavily.

North-South bid well to reach slam. South's club cue-bid did not thrill North particularly; hence, the sign-off at five hearts. But there was no stopping South.

## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 13, 1991 7

Financial Markets  
Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets NEW YORK NEW YORK  
New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	3/5/91 Close	10/5/91 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.6935	1.7245	+1.63
Deutsche Mark	1.7495	1.7225	+1.57
Swiss Franc	1.4767	1.4545	+1.53
French Franc	5.9130	5.8225	+1.55
Japanese Yen	138.85	138.65	+0.14

\*USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates:

Currency	3/5/91		10/5/91	
	1-Month* 1-Year**	1-Year 1-Year**	1-Month 1-Year**	1-Year 1-Year**
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.50	5.81	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.81	11.12	11.87	10.93
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.06	8.75	9.18
Swiss Franc	8.31	8.00	8.25	7.93
French Franc	9.06	9.18	9.00	9.18
Japanese Yen	8.03	7.37	7.93	7.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 12/5/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.679	.683
Sterling Pound	1.1688	1.1758
Deutsche Mark	.3938	.3962
Swiss Franc	.4662	.4690
French Franc	.1165	.1172
Japanese Yen*	.4896	.4925
Dutch Guilder	.3497	.3518
Swedish Krona	.1099	.1106
Italian Lira*	.0532	.0535
Belgian Franc	.01919	.01931

\*Per 100

## Weekly foreign exchange market summary (May 6-May 10, 1991)

THE U.S. dollar fell in mostly subdued activity reaching its lowest levels during the week on Tuesday, then recovered slightly to end the week on Friday well below New York closing levels at the end of the previous week.

The dollar fell Monday in thin Far Eastern and early European trading due to the absence of Tokyo and London traders on official holidays. The thin trading activity accentuated the drop caused by news of President Bush being hospitalised due to heart problems. It rallied later in New York trading just after Mr. Bush left the hospital, but failure to breach resistance at 1.75 marks triggered a round of profit-taking. The dollar subsequently closed at its highest levels during the week at (1.7312-22) marks, (138.20/30) yen and at (1.705/15) dollars to the sterling pound.

The U.S. currency fell further Tuesday, after an early rally brought about by a statement from a Bundesbank council member who said that the Bundesbank had "no intention at the moment to raise interest rates." It fell later in Europe and New York after a statement from the German economics minister rebuffed expectations of higher German interest rates. The minister was reported as saying that the deutschmark's stability was "an absolute priority." Dropping through support at (1.72) marks, the U.S. Unit fell to its lowest levels during the week to close in New York at (1.7155/65) marks, (137.30/90) yen and at (1.7270/80) dollars to the sterling pound.

News that Iraqi anti-aircraft gunners fired at U.S. warplanes in northern Iraq lifted the dollar in Europe Wednesday. The currency advanced further due to short covering by European traders squaring positions ahead of the Ascension Day holiday on Thursday. New York trading was subdued Wednesday and Thursday in anticipation of the release of April's producer price index on Friday.

Friday witnessed a rise in the dollar against the yen in Tokyo, with dealers taking short yen positions on rumours that Bank of Japan officials held an emergency meeting to consider a discount rate cut. Despite Bank of Japan denials, the Japanese currency continued to slip later in the day, lifting European currencies along with the German unit against the dollar in New York, as dealers continued to take long mark-short yen positions in anticipation of a Japanese interest rate decline, and in view of expectations that German interest rates will either rise, or at least remain flat in the short run. An early dollar rally in New York, after the release of producer price data showed a slight (0.2%) rise in April, soon lost steam. Observers maintained that the data was already discounted as it came well within market expectations.

## Palestinians suffer unprecedented squeeze

RAMALLAH, West Bank (R) — As summer begins, unsold bottles are piling up in the warehouse of the RC soft drink company and jobs are being cut. For Palestinians, even a bottle of Cola has become a luxury. "It's pathetic," said Suhail Jadaun, owner of the factory. "I have between 100 and 300 people applying every day, begging for jobs."

"I pay 720 shekels (\$310) a month for an unskilled worker," said the U.S.-educated industrialist. "They come in offering to take 380 shekels (\$165)."

There are no jobs. Sales by the bottling company, still among the biggest local employers with 155 workers after cutting 24 jobs, are dropping as the population becomes increasingly poor.

A combination of rebellion, the Gulf war and Israeli policies have placed Palestinians in the worst economic squeeze since Israeli armour swept through the West Bank and Gaza Strip nearly 24 years ago.

Unemployment has soared and living standards are dropping. UNRWA, the United Nations agency that helps Palestinian refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, is now distributing basic food supplies to the entire Palestinian population.

"The situation now is worse than at any time in the past 40 or 50 years," said Samir Huleileh, an economist and member of the Economic Development Group that promotes investment in the occupied territories.

He estimated that only between 150,000 and 180,000 Palestinians of a population 1.75 million in the occupied territories still had jobs, a third of which were not regular workers. Unemployment last summer was 28 per cent — it may now be half the work force.

The local General Federation of Trade Unions reports annual

"It could not be worse," Freij said in his office overlooking the

Church of the Nativity, the traditional site of Christ's birth.

There was not a single tourist in view, explaining why some 400 local workshops, scores of restaurants and all but one family-run hotel had closed. Freij estimated local unemployment at 70 per cent.

Barring a dramatic political change, such as a breakthrough in U.S. efforts to start Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the prospects for reversing the economic decline are slim. At best, conditions will stabilise at the current low level.

Israel looks unlikely to drop restrictions on Palestinian workers, and the flood of competing Soviet immigrants that abated during the Gulf war is expected to resume.

Saudi Arabia and smaller Gulf states, still angry at the Palestinian sympathy for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, are unlikely to rehire Palestinians who worked there. Most of their donatons may be permanently gone.

With explosive population growth, the streets of the occupied territories are filling with young men who have little chance of jobs at home and who are not allowed to work in Israel.

Arab leaders warn of the dangers to Israel from rising frustration. Some like Freij point to a sharp increase in local crime as the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip sink deeper into poverty.



Elias Freij

Church of the Nativity, the traditional site of Christ's birth.

## Sudanese swap banknotes in anti-inflation exercise

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese crowded banks Sunday to hand in old banknotes in a currency swap ordered by the government to stop people hoarding cash and to fight inflation.

Queues formed outside the central bank and other banks in Khartoum as people waited to exchange old notes for new ones.

Withdrawals are to be restricted to rein in excess cash. The government believes boarded cash chasing scarce goods is one of the reasons for 200 per cent inflation.

Police were posted at the banks to prevent theft and banking hours were extended by six hours to cope with the rush.

The governor of the Bank of Sudan, the central bank, forecast inflation would fall because of the exercise.

"Many people used to keep a lot of money in the boots of their cars which they used to buy almost anything with at any time. Now they won't have that large amount of money available," he said.

## IMF backs Egypt's bid for debt cut

CAIRO (R) — The chairman of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Sunday the IMF would back Egypt's efforts to persuade Western creditors to cut its foreign debt.

Michel Camdessus, speaking to reporters after a 90-minute meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, said the IMF would approve an accord on economic reform with Egypt this week but warned change would take years rather than months.

"I told the president that this very week the IMF executive board will approve this programme, and the week after we will go to the Paris Club and we will support the case of Egypt," he said.

The IMF standby credit accord, under often acrimonious negotiation for more than three years, is due to be signed in Washington Friday, opening the way to fresh credits from the West.

Members of the Paris Club of Western creditor nations have pledged to reduce Egypt's \$35 billion debt once an accord is signed and President Mubarak will make a five-nation European tour next week to try to get the best terms possible.

"Your country has a convincing programme and I think it will get strong and convincing support from the international community," Camdessus said.

"We believe this programme for the stabilisation of the Egyptian economy has all the potential for creating growth opportunities in your country," Camdessus said.

## German Gulf funding puts balance of payments in record deficit

BONN (R) — Germany's contribution to the Gulf war pushed its current account balance of payments into a record deficit of 5.3 billion marks (\$3.1 billion) in March, the Federal Statistics Office has said.

For the first quarter of this year the overall German current account deficit rose to 8.9 billion marks (\$5.1 billion) while the trade balance showed a surplus of 6.8 billion (\$3.9 billion).

Although overall orders for German industry still remain very strong, foreign orders have dropped significantly.

A spokesman for the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, said the current account was affected by a payment of 6.5 billion marks (\$3.7 billion) to the United States, Britain, France and Israel in connection with the Gulf war.

This pushed transfers to other countries in March into a deficit of 10.3 billion marks (\$5.9 billion), up from a normal shortfall of about three billion (\$1.7 billion).

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### PHILADELPHIA

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

### CONCORD

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

### NIJOUN</h3

## Soviet Union 'on verge of chaos' — Gorbachev

LONDON (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, saying his country was "on the verge of chaos," warned that U.S. conservatives could push the superpowers into a new cold war. He also implied he could again tighten restrictions in the Soviet Union.

"Chaos can be easily created," Gorbachev said in an interview with the Sunday Times. "We are on the verge of chaos, because we are abandoning a command economy and because we are moving towards a situation where all the various actors will be free."

"If we stop the process, we could have to reimpose the command system."

His wife, Raisa, echoed his views.

"Now is the peak of tension," she said. "The storm is happening and Mikhail Sergeyevich is in the eye of the storm."

In an interview last week with Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of News International, which owns the Sunday Times, Gorbachev said that right wing Americans were seeking to put pressure on the Soviet Union, and were influencing American foreign policy.

"Former President Richard Nixon and (Nixon's Secretary of State Henry) Kissinger and (Former National Security Advisor Zbigniew) Brzezinski have become more active, because of the Gulf war and because of the difficult situation we have with perestroika. They think their time has come again," he said.

The Soviet system has liberalized under perestroika reforms.

"American farmers are being told that they cannot have credit for grain exports to us," he said. "The United States has vetoed exports of computers to us. The right wing in America is not just trying to put pressure on us; it has succeeded in making changes in American policy."

He added, "if we allow the U.S.-Soviet relationship to deteriorate there will be a new cold war. Or at least rainy weather."

Gorbachev suggested that Japan was acting in part on American advice when it gave him a cool reception during his visit there last month. And he

criticised elements in the U.S. government which see the next U.S.-Soviet summit as a barometer of political power.

The question asked in the United States is: Does the American president need a summit or does Gorbachev need it more? If such arguments inside the U.S. administration really reflect its attitude then it should think about it — better not to have a summit if only one side wants it."

"We and the United States are doomed to be tied together," he said. "Maybe the U.S. feels it does not need a strong Soviet Union — but we feel we need a strong United States. It is the guiding axis of international relations."

Suggestions that the Soviet Union adopt a purely Western-style free market economy are "stupid," he said.

"It is stupid to demand that the Soviet Union copy other countries' models. We will learn, but we will not copy. We will not fit any pattern."

The final economic system the Soviet Union adopts will be a "mixed" format, Gorbachev said. He expressed at best lukewarm enthusiasm for private ownership.

"People do not want to work in a factory whose owner has accumulated money in some unknown (the implication in Russia was 'dubious') way," he said. "Privatisation should give people a share, a lease maybe, membership of a cooperative... in their factories. Small private properties might be allowed in trade."

Gorbachev also criticised the media fascination with "questions like: Is Gorbachev moving to the right or left or maybe he's moving backwards? They do not see that Gorbachev can go in only one direction — forward."

"Unless we combine our efforts, the union may just fall to pieces," he was quoted as saying.

Yeltsin, a one-time Gorbachev protege, was ousted from the politburo on Feb. 18, 1988, after the two split over the pace of reform. Yeltsin had advocated faster economic, social and political change than Gorbachev.

"The press can be quick to

report trends: But what is happening involves changes of such magnitude that it is bound to be accompanied by elements of chaos."

The Sunday Times reported that Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov was cautiously critical of the brevity of Murdoch's visit with Gorbachev.

"You have come here so well I suppose, I suppose, that you can afford to pay us so brief a visit," Pavlov said.

**Yeltsin: Gorbachev is now an ally**

Meanwhile, Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin, who has had a long and bitter political feud with Gorbachev, now views the Soviet president as an "ally" a news agency reported Saturday.

The statement was a remarkable turnaround for Yeltsin, who only three months ago had called for Gorbachev's resignation on national television.

Yeltsin's apparent change of heart stems from an agreement reached April 23 between Gorbachev and the leaders of nine of the 15 Soviet republics, including Russia.

The independent Interfax News Agency quoted Yeltsin as saying that he is "ready to combine efforts with any republic and with the centre" to further pro-democracy reforms. The "centre" is a term used to mean the Soviet central government.

"Gorbachev today is clearly in favour of such reforms, which is very important and which makes him our ally," Yeltsin was quoted as saying by Interfax.

While acknowledging that his personal relationship with Gorbachev has been difficult, Yeltsin said the issue "must not overshadow the fact that Yeltsin had betrayed them in the April 23 agreement, which urged an end to all work stoppages."

"No one went back on his positions," Yeltsin was quoted by Interfax as saying.

He also appeared to issue a warning to Gorbachev over the agreement.

"He who is the first to deviate from that document will be doomed," Interfax quoted Yeltsin as saying.



Mikhail Gorbachev

## Cyclone threat, disease overwhelm Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — The threat of a new cyclone hung over Bangladesh Sunday as the impoverished nation struggled to cope with flooding, hunger and disease in the wake of a storm which killed at least 138,000 people and made millions destitute.

Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar suspended campaigning for elections at home to visit Bangladesh to offer his condolences.

According to official figures, 138,868 people were killed when a cyclone with 230 kph (145 mph) winds and a six-metre (20-foot) tidal wave hit Bangladesh's southern coast on April 29. Red Cross officials say the final figure could be well over 200,000.

Dhaka weather officials located a low depression in the Andaman Sea, 800 miles south of Chittagong, and feared it would turn into a new cyclone which could hit the country in the next two days.

"We don't want to take any chances. We have told people to stay alert," said Abdur Rub Khan, an official in Chittagong.

Shekhar, who met acting President Shahabuddin Ahmad and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during his visit, said the situation was "horrendous."

India has lent six of the 16 helicopters Bangladesh has been flying to remote areas to drop food, medicine and cloth to destitute survivors of the cyclone.

"I have come here to share with you your grief and sorrows, your trial and tribulations," Shekhar told Bangladeshi leaders at the airport.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the cyclone had cost Bangladesh \$3 billion in economic losses and nearly four million people had been rendered virtually destitute.

A 20-member advance team of a U.S. task force arrived in Dhaka Sunday to help relief operations.

In Washington, White House spokesman Bill Harlow said the task force would include helicopters, amphibious landing ships, construction workers and medical teams to help set up water purification plants.

An official said 35 people drowned when floods engulfed at least 520 square kilometres of northeast Sylhet and Moulvi Bazar districts when six rivers burst their banks after heavy rains. Paddy fields and thousands of homes were inundated.

More than 505,000 people were marooned by the floods and officials said Moulvi Bazar town, with a population of half a million, would be submerged by waters from the Manu River if there was more rain.

From an early age, Polish children learn the legend of 15th-century King Wladyslaw III, who is said to have taken refuge on Madeira.

Pope John Paul himself escaped death from the bullet of a Turkish gunman in St. Peter's Square in 1981 and has come to Portugal for the 10th anniversary of the assassination attempt to give thanks to the Virgin of Fatima.

Those republics did not give six months notice before the referendum, as the Soviet constitution demands, and this very conveniently allowed Gorbachev to declare those polls invalid, Ter-Petrosyan said. "But in our case we cannot say that — we have given the required notice."

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said the Kremlin was trying to destabilise the republic because it was the first one which intended to secede legally from the Soviet Union.

"(President Mikhail) Gorbachev does not want a single republic to leave the union and will do all he can to interfere with the process," he said in an interview Sunday.

Armenia, unlike other breakaway republics, has chosen to

## Armenia fears economic blockade by Moscow

YEREVAN, Soviet Union (R) — Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan said Sunday large-scale Soviet army raids on villages in the southern republic had practically stopped but again voiced fears that Moscow could enforce an economic blockade.

"There have been no serious military operations for most of the last two days. Some villages have been encircled briefly, but that is about all," he told a news conference in the capital Yerevan.

The Armenian Interior Ministry says Soviet troops raided several villages along the border with Azerbaijan over the past two weeks, killing at least 50 people and taking 104 hostages. The armed forces blame Armenian militants for the bloodshed.

Manukyan said Saturday that the republic was getting only a fraction of agreed food supplies from the centre and feared this could be a continuation of what he called a campaign by Moscow to destabilise the republic.

"Food supplies to all the republics have been poor this year, but in the last month deliveries to Armenia have dropped even further. To my mind this is linked to political goals," he told the news conference.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said the Kremlin was trying to destabilise the republic because it was the first one which intended to secede legally from the Soviet Union.

"(President Mikhail) Gorbachev does not want a single republic to leave the union and will do all he can to interfere with the process," he said in an interview Sunday.

Armenia, unlike other breakaway republics, has chosen to

leave the Soviet Union according to the country's constitution. This calls for a referendum on independence, followed by a five-year transition period and then another referendum.

The secessionist Baltic republics and Georgia earlier this year held referendums on independence in which overwhelming majorities voted to break links with Moscow.

Those republics did not give six months notice before the referendum, as the Soviet constitution demands, and this very conveniently allowed Gorbachev to declare those polls invalid, Ter-Petrosyan said. "But in our case we cannot say that — we have given the required notice."

Armenia plans to hold its referendum on Sept. 21 this year.

Gorbachev says it would be a disaster if the Soviet Union were to split apart and he wants the 15 republics to sign a new treaty redefining their relations with the centre. But he insists they will be allowed to go freely, so long as they follow the constitutional procedure.

The Kremlin claims the military actions in Armenia solely to disarm illegal armed groups in accordance with a decree from Gorbachev.

But Yerevan says the troops — working closely with Azeri police — want to deport Armenians from the area around the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave of Azerbaijan populated mainly by Armenians.

Ter-Petrosyan said Moscow was merely using Azerbaijan to further its own ends.

"What is happening now in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh is not a conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is just pressure from the centre against our independence bid and nothing more," he said.

## Pope visits historical island

FUNCHAL, Madeira (AP) — Pope John Paul II fulfilled a childhood dream Sunday when he stopped off on this luxuriant Atlantic island en route to the shrine of the Virgin of Fatima, who the Polish Pope believes contributed to the demise of Communist governments in Eastern Europe.

From an early age, Polish children learn the legend of 15th-century King Wladyslaw III, who is said to have taken refuge on Madeira.

Pope John Paul himself escaped death from the bullet of a Turkish gunman in St. Peter's Square in 1981 and has come to Portugal for the 10th anniversary of the assassination attempt to give thanks to the Virgin of Fatima.

Since the Virgin's apparition on a hill 110 kilometres north of Lisbon to three illiterate shepherds on May 13, 1917, the Roman Catholic Church has conducted frequent worldwide vigils and pilgrimages to pray for the return of Christianity to the atheist Soviet Union.

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The man branded the "prince of death" by his enemies was already locked in a bloody struggle with the rival Wa drug army, which has been enlisted by a Burmese government seeking to divide and rule its troublesome minorities.

But Khun Sa aides say recent fighting has not cut routes used for transporting heroin from the Golden Triangle on the first stage of its journey to the streets of U.S. cities.

"Don't think this stops anything. There are so many supply routes," said a Khun Sa aide while relaxing at home in Chiang Mai.

At the centre is a pagoda inscribed with the words "for a peaceful country" — a reminder

Mai, nerve centre of the U.S. and Thailand campaign to combat the drugs trade.

Sources on the other side of the drug war said they, too, believed the wily Khun Sa had beaten a strategic retreat and was biding his time.

More than half the heroin seized in the United States comes from the Golden Triangle, where security forces and the war lords' men usually exchange pleasantries rather than gunfire.

U.S. officials have often accused some officials along the border of being somewhat less than enthusiastic in tackling their

Production in Burma of opium, from which heroin is derived, was 3,252 tonnes last year, according to U.S. figures.

Scanning the misty green hills from the abandoned command post at Mong Tuen, a Thai army colonel said: "We're here to stay."

"We took these bases in 1985 but left too quickly and they came back. Not this time."

The network of trenches and concrete bunkers is surrounded by fences of sharpened bamboo stakes.

At the centre is a pagoda inscribed with the words "for a peaceful country" — a reminder

## Amnesty: Khmer Rouge killed 30 in internal purge

BANGKOK (R) — The Khmer Rouge has executed 30 members who led a move for greater freedoms within the radical Cambodian group, Amnesty International said.

All were alleged to have been killed on the same day in July last year, the London-based human rights group said in a statement seen in Bangkok Sunday.

It said six were shot in their beds before dawn and the other 24 were taken into a forest and executed.

The victims had opposed restrictions on the means of livelihood, freedom of movement, contact with foreigners and practice of the Buddhist religion, Amnesty said.

Among the estimated one million people who died under Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia from 1975-79, were thousands of party members killed in a frenzy of internal purges.

Dusted by Vietnamese troops in 1979, the Chinese-backed movement is the strongest army in the guerrilla alliance battling the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh government.

The question of how much it has changed its policies is a central issue in the debate on ending the 12-year-old civil war.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, who was Khmer Rouge head Pol Pot's right-hand

man during their rule, last month said the group was no longer Communist.

The group professes to have embraced capitalism and Buddhism, both banned under Pol Pot.

The Amnesty report said military police of the Democratic Party of Kampuchea — the Khmer Rouge's official title — carried out the executions in the northern Cambodian provinces of Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey and Preah Vihear.

The victims had opposed restrictions on the means of livelihood, freedom of movement, contact with foreigners and practice of the Buddhist religion, Amnesty said.

One of those killed was a special forces commander named Bunthean, the report said.

Meanwhile a United Nations military team traveled into the countryside Sunday to visit a Khmer Rouge guerrilla base and review compliance with a truce declared ahead of expected Cambodian peace talks.

The May 1 truce has appeared to be holding despite accusations of violations by both sides.

The four-man U.N. team, led by Gen. Timothy Dubuque of Ghana, flew from Bangkok to visit the Khmer Rouge base near the Thai-Cambodian border, said U.N. official, who requested anonymity.

## Fire at Manila palace spares Imelda's shoes

MANILA (R) — A fire broke out in the Philippine presidential palace early Sunday, gutting a souvenir shop but sparing the 2,000 pairs of shoes amassed by ex-President Corazon Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts in her more than five years in power, had left Manila on a private visit to La Union province in the northern Philippines.

Aquino lives in another building outside the main Malacañang Palace complex.